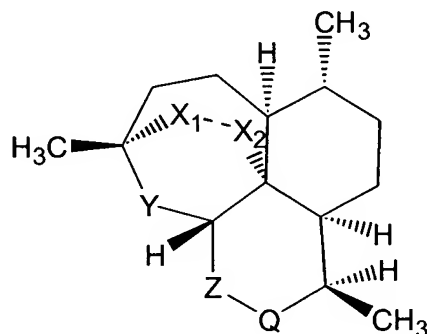


We claim:

1. A method of treating infections caused by *Flaviviridae* sp., comprising the step of administering an effective amount of a sesquiterpene having the formula:



wherein:

X_1 and X_2 are selected from the group consisting of O, S, Se and N;

Y is selected from the group consisting of O, S, Se, and N;

Z is selected from the group consisting of O, NH, S, and Se, and

Q is selected from the group consisting of CO, CHOH, CHOCH_3 , CHOC_2H_5 , CHOC_3H_7 , and $\text{CHOCOCCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{COOH}$,

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the sesquiterpene is selected from the group consisting of artemisinin and analogs of artemisinin.
3. A method as defined in either claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the infection is hepatitis C.
4. A method as defined in either claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the infection is bovine viral diarrhea or classical swine fever.

5. A method of treating infections caused by *Flaviviridae* sp., comprising the step of administering an effective amount of an endoperoxide in combination with interferon or peg-interferon.
6. A method as defined in claim 5, wherein the endoperoxide is selected from the group consisting of artemisinin and analogs of artemisinin.
7. A method as defined in claim 5, wherein the infection is hepatitis C.
8. A method of treating infections caused by (+) sense RNA viruses, comprising the step of administering an effective amount of an endoperoxide.
9. A method as defined in claim 8, wherein the endoperoxide is selected from the group consisting of artemisinin and analogs of artemisinin.
10. A method as defined in claim 8, where in the peroxo linkage (-O-O-) of the endoperoxide is substituted with a moiety selected from the group comprising -S-S-, -Se-Se-, -N-O-, and -N-N- linkages, and all combinations thereof.
11. A method of treating infections caused by (+) sense RNA viruses, comprising the step of administering an effective amount of an endoperoxide in combination with interferon or peg-interferon.